

VAA NEWS



H.G. FRAUTSCHY

Rare Pitcairn Autogiro Arrives for AirVenture

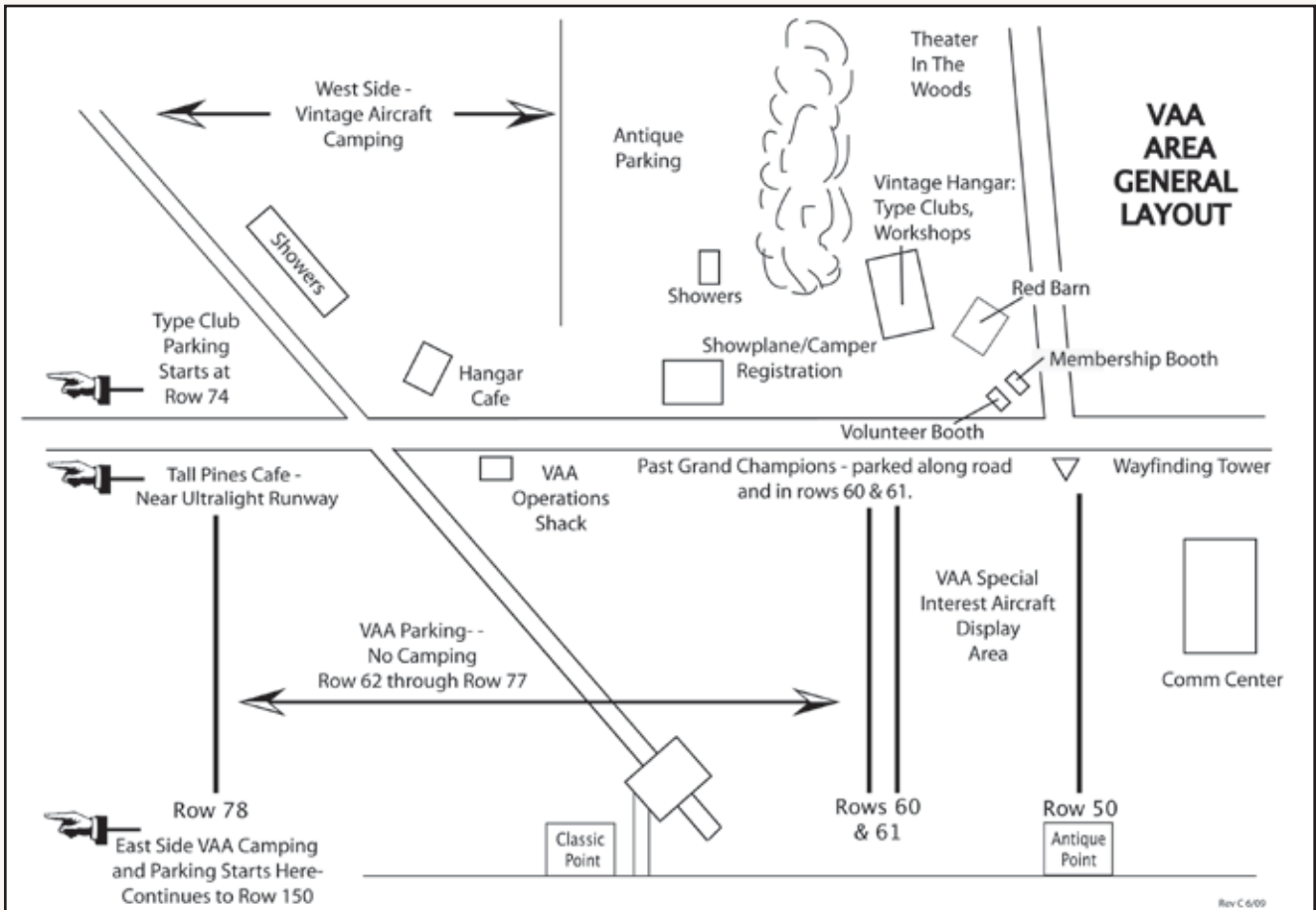
Around this time last year, Jack and Kate Tiffany, of Spring Hill, Ohio, and the crew of Leading Edge Restorations, were anticipating the flight of their recently restored Pitcairn PA-18 Autogiro to Oshkosh for AirVenture 2008. However, the rotor blades were significantly damaged during testing about a week prior to Oshkosh, and the flight had to be called off.

That made the arrival of the PA-18 that much sweeter as the 77-year-old rotorcraft landed safely at EAA's Pioneer Airport on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, in plenty of time for this year's convention. A total of 19 Pitcairn PA-18s were built from 1932-1933, and this one, the result of nearly a decade-long restoration, represents the only flying example left in the world.

The last leg of the journey to Pioneer Airport was from the Hartford, Wisconsin, airport, about 38 nautical miles south of Oshkosh. With just a hint of emotion in his voice, Jack remarked as the 'gyro took off on the final leg from Hartford, Wisconsin, "It's unreal [to see it depart]; 40 miles from Oshkosh, after nine years... it's unreal."

Plans are for the aircraft to be displayed at—where else—Pioneer Airport's Pitcairn Hangar until right before AirVenture, then it will be relocated to the Vintage area on convention grounds for static display throughout the week. For more on the arrival of the Autogiro along with a video clip of it in flight, visit www.AirVenture.org and click on the Multimedia link.

After AirVenture, the PA-18 will return to the Pitcairn Hangar for display through August. Andrew King, pilot, may even fly the Autogiro in EAA's Good Ol' Days of Aviation event scheduled for August 29-30 before departing to the airport in Brodhead, Wisconsin, and then back to Spring Hill, Ohio.



To help members who fly in to understand the layout of the convention area administered by the VAA, we've prepared this simplified map. As you can see, camping starts at Row 74 on the east side of the main north/south road (Wittman Road), with the areas to the north of that line set up to handle display-only vintage aircraft. That's why you may see open areas as you taxi south to your camping location.

Once you arrive, you'll need to register your aircraft and/or campsite. In addition to roving registration vehicles, there is one main aircraft registration building, lo-

cated just south of the VAA Red Barn (see map). The EAA convention campgrounds are private campgrounds and are not open to non-EAA members. Each campsite must be registered by a current EAA member.

Another immediate benefit of VAA membership is your free VAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009 Participant Plaque, which you can pick up in the rear of the Red Barn. EAA and VAA memberships are available at both aircraft registration and at the membership booth located under the VAA Welcome Arch, northeast of the Red Barn at the corner of Wittman Road and Vern Avenue.

Flight Planning for Your EAA AirVenture Trip

As an EAA member (an important part of your VAA membership), you can use the EAA Flight Planner to chart your trip to Wittman Field for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009. Just click on the EAA Flight Planner link on the left side of the members-only home page at <http://Members.EAA.org> or you can log in at www.VintageAircraft.org.

Grass Runways and Fuel

Also on our VAA website, we publish a list created by VAA

member Kris Kortokrax.

Kris flies a variety of old biplanes that are more pleasant to fly when they are flown from grass strips, and he and his buddies from Shelbyville, Illinois, do their best to keep the old biplanes happy (and keep tire wear to a minimum) by flying cross-country from grass strip to grass strip. Finding fuel facilities can be a challenge these days, and Kris has distilled this airport information to be useful for like-minded grass-runway-preferring pilots. This data was current as of the beginning of the year, and we'd suggest calling

ahead to confirm fuel availability and hours of operation. If you have any changes or additions, drop us an e-mail here at VintageAircraft@eaa.org and we'll forward it to Kris.

Our thanks to Kris for sharing his list. Let us know if you find it useful!

Breakfast and a Briefing

The VAA Tall Pines Café will be in operation again this year with an expanded schedule prior to convention, and fly-in-style pancake and egg breakfasts during EAA AirVenture. Starting on Friday morning, July 24, and continu-

ing through Sunday, July 26, the VAA Tall Pines Café will be open for breakfast (6:30 - 9:30 a.m.) and dinner (4:30 - 7:30 p.m.). Starting Monday, July 27, only breakfast will be served at the Tall Pines Café (6:30 - 9:30 a.m.). Just to the north, an FAA Flight Service Station (FSS) trailer will be located near the café. At the trailer you'll be able to check the weather for your flight and obtain a full briefing from FSS specialists without having to trek up to the FAA Building near the control tower. We'll see you there each morning for "breakfast and a briefing."

Are You a Friend of the VAA Red Barn?

If so, be sure to check in at the information desk at the VAA Red Barn. There, we'll issue you a special name badge. We can also point out the location for the Ford Tri-Motor rides. If you have any questions, feel free to ask for Theresa Books, the VAA administrative assistant. If you need to reach her in advance of your arrival, call her at EAA headquarters, 920-426-6110.

Our thanks to each of you who have contributed to the VAA Friends of the Red Barn 2009 campaign. We'll have the list of contributors in the September edition of *Vintage Airplane!*

VAA Message Center

If you would like to leave a message for people you know who frequent the VAA Red Barn, stop by the information desk. You can write them a message in our "notebook on a string," and we'll post their name on the marker board so they'll know there's a message waiting for them. Sure, cellular phones and walkie-talkies are great, but sometimes nothing works better than a hand-scribbled note!

VAA Picnic

Tickets for the annual VAA picnic to be held Wednesday, July 29, at the Nature Center will be available for sale at the VAA Red Barn. Tick-

ets must be purchased in advance so we know how much food to order. The delicious meal will be served after 5:30 p.m. Trams will begin leaving the VAA Red Barn around 5 p.m. and will make return trips after the picnic. Type clubs may hold their annual banquets during the picnic. Call Jeannie Hill (815-943-7205), and she will reserve seating so your type club can sit together.

Shawano Fly-Out

The annual fly-out to Shawano is Saturday, August 1. The sign-up sheet will be at the desk at the VAA Red Barn, and the briefing will be at 7 a.m. the morning of the fly-out. The community of Shawano, approximately an hour north of Oshkosh (as the Cub flies), is a big supporter of VAA and puts forth a lot of effort to sponsor this event. Shawano's residents do a great job of hosting us, and we hope you'll help us thank Shawano by joining us on the flight.

VAA Red Barn Store

The VAA Red Barn Store, chock-full of VAA logo merchandise and other great gear, will be open with expanded hours all week long, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Early-bird arrivals can shop on the previous weekend as well, during limited hours. Show your VAA membership card (or your receipt showing you joined VAA at the convention), and you'll receive a 10 percent discount.

One evening during AirVenture there will be a special VAA members-only sale. Inquire at the store for the date. Bring your VAA card, and you'll receive an additional discount on specially priced merchandise. See you there!

VAA Volunteer Opportunities

Are you an ace pancake flipper? If you're not one yet, we can help! The VAA Tall Pines Café is looking for volunteers who can help provide a hearty breakfast to all the hungry campers on the south end of Wittman Field. If you could lend a hand

for a morning or two, we'd appreciate it. If that's not your cup of tea, feel free to check with the VAA Volunteer Center, located just to the northeast of the VAA Red Barn. The volunteers who operate the booth will be happy to tell you when your help is needed each day. It doesn't matter if it's just for a few hours or for a few days—we'd love to have your helping hands! There is no need for you to contact us ahead of time; you can talk with us when you arrive.

VAA Judging Categories and Awards

The VAA's internationally recognized judging categories are:

- Antique: Aircraft built prior to September 1, 1945
- Classic: September 1, 1945 - December 31, 1955
- Contemporary: January 1, 1956 - December 31, 1970

Any aircraft built within those years is eligible to park in the Show-plane parking and camping areas. If you wish to have your aircraft judged, let the volunteer know when you register your aircraft and camping area. If you want your aircraft to be judged by VAA volunteer judges, you need to be a current Vintage Aircraft Association member. VAA contributes a significant portion of the costs related to the EAA awards that are presented to the award winners. The Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday evening at 6 in the new Vintage Hangar – not in Theater in the Woods as in previous years.

Designated Smoking Areas Near Flightline

Smoking on the flightline at EAA AirVenture is prohibited because it's a hazard to all aircraft. There are several designated smoking areas with butt cans along the flightline, well away from aircraft and refueling operations.

Designated smoking areas will be south of the ultralight runway; near the Hangar Café; near the Warbirds area (northeast corner of

A Night at the Movies With EAA Fly-In Theater

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and watch a great aviation movie at the EAA Fly-In Theater, presented by Ford Motor Company and supported by Hamilton Watches. Movies are shown nightly, from Sunday, July 26, through Saturday, August 1, and each film is introduced by a celebrity presenter. The theater is located just north of EAA's Camp Scholler at the end of Doolittle Drive, and the program begins at 8:30 p.m.



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Here's the lineup of movies, along with the guest presenters who have been confirmed:

Sunday, July 26	<i>One Six Right</i> and <i>Barnstorming</i>	(presenter TBD) presented by Paul Glenshaw and Andrew King
Monday, July 27	<i>The Right Stuff</i>	(presenter TBD)
Tuesday, July 28	<i>Cloud Dancer</i>	presented by Tom Poberezny and friends
Wednesday, July 29	<i>Six Days Seven Nights</i>	presented by Harrison Ford
Thursday, July 30	<i>Bat*21</i>	(presenter TBD)
Friday, July 31	<i>X-15</i>	presented by Joe Engle
Saturday, August 1	<i>Pearl Harbor</i>	(presenter TBD)

Audrey Lane and Eide Avenue); the Warehouse flag pole area; the shade pavilion north of the control tower; and near the Ultralight Barn. Locations will be indicated on EAA's free convention grounds map. The admission wristband also instructs visitors that smoking is allowed only in designated smoking areas.

EAA AirVenture Is Almost Here . . . Are You Ready?

Just a few short weeks from now, many of you will make the annual pilgrimage to Oshkosh for EAA AirVenture 2009. Are you ready? Here are several handy online tools on the newly redesigned AirVenture website.

Visit www.AirVenture.org and find out what you need to know about The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration.

Admission, Parking, Hours

www.AirVenture.org/planning/admission.html

Find or Share a Ride to Oshkosh

www.AirVenture.org/rideshare

Site Map

www.AirVenture.org/planning/AV2009_grounds_map.pdf

Quick reference guide of new site layout: www.AirVenture.org/siteplan/guidechanges.html

AirVenture Schedule

www.AirVenture.org/schedule

Where to Stay

www.AirVenture.org/planning/where_to_stay.html

AirVenture NOTAM

www.AirVenture.org/flying

Alternate Airports and Waypoints

www.AirVenture.org/flying/alternate_airports.html

www.AirVenture.org/2008/news/080605_presentations.html

Put more than a thousand presentations, workshops, and other scheduled events at your fingertips.

Find Your Favorite Presentations and Workshops Online

With hundreds of the world's leading aviation authorities giving close to 1,000 individual presentations at nearly 45 locations spread throughout the AirVenture grounds, finding out who is presenting, where, and when, can be, in a word, challenging. The EAA AirVenture website has an online tool that can make this task simple when you use the integrated AirVenture Schedule.

Located at www.AirVenture.org under "Attractions" and then under "Activities, Presentations & Workshops," the database includes all the venues, subjects and topics, presenters and events from not only Forums and Workshops, but also Warbirds in Review, KidVenture, Museum Speakers Showcase, Authors Corner, Theater in the Woods, special "at the aircraft" presentations on AeroShell Square, and more. In addition, the web schedule is updated on a daily basis.

A quick link to this new schedule is www.AirVenture.org/schedule.

A brand-new groundbreaking feature this year is the ability to create your own itinerary of various events of interest. You can save or print it out for future reference.

The online schedule will now make it easier for you to find presentations, book signings, activities, movies, and other events at every venue on the site.